

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PRS-01 H-02 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8979

UNCLAS ROME 185

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG,

SUBJECT: VISIT OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FRANCISCO AQUINO

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM FRANCISCO AQUINO HAS BEEN VISITING A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. PRESENTLY IN NEW YORK AT UN, HE RETURNS LATE THIS WEEK, NEXT WEEK TO BERLIN AND BONN, THEN AN AFRICAN TRIP. HE HOPES TO VISIT U.S. AND CANADA PRIOR FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR MEETINGS IN ROME IN MARCH ON FOLLOW UP TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - RECONSTITUTION OF IGC, COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES - RESOURCES AND PLEDGING PLANS AND TARGETS FOR NEXT BIENNIUM, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM ETC. ALTHOUGH NOT ON SUGGESTED AGENDA, ASSUME HIS CANDIDACY FOR FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL POSITION IN NOVEMBER ELECTION, FOR WHICH AT THIS POINT HE APPEARS TO BE THE LEADING CANDIDATE BY SOME MARGIN, AND THE SUCCESSION AT WFP WOULD BE ITEMS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST TO U.S. AND NOT OF LEAST CONCERN TO DR. AQUINO.

2. AQUINO SAYS HE HAS INVITATION FROM CANADA, DATES NOT YET FIRM BUT TENTATIVELY WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17. HIS HOPE IS THAT CANADIAN ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE FIRMED UP FOR 17 AND 18 LEAVING BALANCE OF WEEK FOR WASHINGTON. HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CALLS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD, SEE SECRETARY BUTZ AND ADMINISTRATOR PARKER AND HAVE SESSIONS WITH SENIOR

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OFFICIALS IN AGRICULTURE, STATE AND AID. WHILE AT FIRST

BLUSH LIST APPEARS PRESUMPTUOUS, IT IS TRUE THAT HE HAS
BEEN SEEING PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS AND KINGS ON HIS
VARIOUS VISITS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER WHETHER SUCH
CALLS MIGHT BE IN OUR INTEREST AS WELL AS HIS. AN ALTERNATIVE
WHICH COMES TO MIND IN CASE OF UNAVAILABILITY OF SECSTATE
AND PRESIDENT IS CALL ON VP.
CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS INTENTIONALLY NOT RAISED WITH HIM
BUT THERE LIKELY WOULD BE INTEREST ON CAPITOL HILL IF DEPARTMENT
CHOOSES TO PURSUE. VOLPE

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